

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No such fact has come to the notice of Delhi Police during investigation conducted so far.

(c) The recovery of fake arms licences by Delhi Police recently from two person led to registration of two other cases, on the basis of which 32 persons in all were arrested and 30 guns 134 cartridges of 12 bore were seized.

(d) The steps taken by Delhi Police in this regard include developing intelligence about the persons suspected to be in possession of unlicensed/illegal arms; regular watch on the activities of persons suspected to be involved in such crimes; and close interaction with the intelligence agencies and law enforcing agencies of neighbouring States for sharing of information about activities of inter-state gang indulging in such crimes.

Nabbing forest Bandit Veerappan

2773. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the result of the joint operation launched by special task force led by Tamil Nadu with Karnataka Police and Border Security Force to nab forest bandit Veerappan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): As per information furnished by the State Government of Tamil Nadu, immediately after the release of Dr. Raj Kumar, 'Operation Jungle Storm-II' was launched by the Special Task Force of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, assisted by the BSF companies provided by the Central Government for nabbing Veerappan. Combined onslaught of the STF and BSF compelled Veerappan to run from his familiar territory to a new area namely Boluvampatti Reserved Forests in Coimbatore distt. and Walyar Reserved Forests in Palghat District of Kerala. The gang was sighted on 02.2.2001 upon which a brief

21 March, 2001

RAJYA SABHA

encounter took place with the police party. Unable to withstand the police firing, Veerappan and his gang escaped in the forests leaving their personal belongings. Maran, who is the Chief of TNLA and a prominent member of Vecrappan's gang was arrested by the STF on 15.2.2001 from a place called Seethaivanam in the Boluvampatti reserve forests of Coimbatore district. A massive man-hunt is on by the STF to nab the remaining fugitives.

Refugees in Tamil Nadu from Sri Lanka

2774. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the total arrival of refugees in Tamil Nadu from Sri Lanka since the escalation of war in Sri Lanka;
- (b) what is the total expenditure involved in rehabilitating the refugees;
- (c) what steps are being taken to prevent the influx of refugees pouring into our country; and
- (d) whether Government of India is taking up this matter with the Sri Lankan Government for sorting out this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) In the wake of ethnic violence in Sri Lanka, about 2,78,000 Sri Lankan refugees arrived in India since 1983 up to February, 2001;

(b) An amount of Rs. 229.36 crore (approximately) has been reimbursed to the State Governments for providing relief to these refugees during the period July 1983 to March 2000. However these refugees are not to be rehabilitated permanently in India and only relief is to be provided on humanitarian grounds pending their repatriation on restoration of normalcy in Sri Lanka;

(c) The Central Government and the State Government of Tamil Nadu have undertaken several measures which include